

racism, bigotry, and religious and gender discrimination were tackled by the cast of "All in the Family," and Mr. O'Connor led the discussion. His loyal fans will always remember the contributions he made to changing attitudes in America.

As much as I admired Mr. O'Connor for his role in bringing social issues to the forefront of American thought, today I would like to talk about another important issue that Mr. O'Connor helped bring to the attention of the American public. Mr. O'Connor was a tireless advocate for preventing kids from using drugs. He spoke publicly about the importance of keeping illegal drugs away from our kids. He passionately pleaded for parents to get between drugs and their kids so as to avoid the heartache that he himself suffered while witnessing his son Hugh struggle with his own addiction to cocaine and ultimately, as a result of his addiction, commit suicide. At a time when many would retreat in their own sorrow and grief, Carroll O'Connor mustered the strength to speak out about the dangers of drug abuse. He was a true public servant who undoubtedly touched the hearts of millions through his public service announcements that intimately described how he lost his son to drug addiction. I truly believe that his moving announcements prompted many parents to talk to their children about drugs.

I was fortunate to meet several times with Mr. O'Connor to discuss our country's drug control strategy. He had many interesting and innovative ideas as how to best solve the problem. In fact, just a few months ago he appeared via satellite at a Judiciary Committee hearing I held to testify in favor of S. 304, the Drug Abuse Education, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2001, which I introduced along with Senators LEAHY, BIDEN, DEWINE, THURMOND, and FEINSTEIN. I want to quote a passage from his opening statement, which I believe exemplifies his dedication to the issue of drug abuse.

We only know that there is hardly a family in America, on any level of life, that has not been wounded lightly or severely or fatally by the assault of the drug empire upon our country. The loved ones of insensate addicts, like my own poor son, write to me every day imploring my help, as if I, being well-known, might persuade our leaders to protect and defend them in this war, or at the very least help them care for their wounded and dying. This Committee, by this legislation, is now directing serious attention to the care for the wounded and dying.

I deeply regret that Mr. O'Connor will not be here when the Senate passes S. 304, but importantly, his legacy is secure in the form of the contribution he has made to publicizing this issue and the tireless work toward the passage of this legislation. I ask unanimous consent that Mr. O'Connor's March 14, 2001 opening statement before the Judiciary Committee be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT BY CARROLL O'CONNOR TO THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, MARCH 14, 2001

Good morning. My dear Senators, I'm honored by your invitation to be here. I'm deeply involved in our war on drugs but only as a wounded victim of it, without expertise in the conduct of it. I am presuming here simply to speak for five million other victims. Or should I say ten million? Is there a true number? We only know that there is hardly a family in America, on any level of life, that has not been wounded lightly or severely or fatally by the assault of the drug empire upon our country.

The loved ones of insensate addicts, like my own poor son, write to me every day imploring my help, as if I, being well-known, might persuade our leaders to protect and defend them in this war, or at the very least help them care for their wounded and dying. This committee, by this legislation, is now directing serious attention to the care of the wounded and dying. This is a good bill. This war against the drug empire is a good war, and except for some who call it a lost war, who would legalize drugs and turn the country over to the invader, the American people are not clamoring to withdraw from this war.

This war is raging in the streets around them. They tell me in their letters that they don't understand why we are not fighting this war and winning it. They understand that they are spending billions to raise blockades and sanctions against so-called enemy countries like Libya and Cuba, and to fly bomber patrols over Iraq to prevent the Iraqis from making chemical weapons to use against us, but they know that the only country in the world attacking us daily with the poisons it makes is Colombia, the key country in the drug empire; Colombia which says to us "Control your own deadly habits; we don't create them, we merely supply them. Meanwhile can you let us have two billion dollars and some American troops to deal with our rebels down here?"

If this is an unsophisticated picture of our foreign relations, it is nevertheless starkly real to our despairing people. The picture might better be presented to some other committee of the congress, but it is impossible to leave it out of any consideration of the drug war. I cannot guess how our people will receive the proposals advanced by this good legislation, and I am afraid that the expenditures here proposed for treatment and rehabilitation are not going to be enough by half. I would have said that we needed new, free rehabilitation centers in all of the major counties of our fifty states. How many? Two hundred, three hundred? At what cost? Perhaps a billion? a low guess? just to start the program.

Addicts cannot help themselves; they have to learn control, to re-regulate brain cells in expert medical facilities, places with living facilities closely available that will receive them without delay when they are ready to offer themselves. Our people are not ungenerous but they are not well informed. Care and rehabilitation of thousands and thousands of junkies is not something they are ready to pay for on a grand scale. But that must be done, and now when we are at the flood tide of our national wealth is the only possible time to do it.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday,

July 30, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,733,200,036,425.98, five trillion, seven hundred thirty-three billion, two hundred million, thirty-six thousand, four hundred twenty-five dollars and ninety-eight cents.

Five years ago, July 30, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,183,983,000,000, five trillion, one hundred eighty-three billion, nine hundred eighty-three million.

Ten years ago, July 30, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,560,957,000,000, three trillion, five hundred sixty billion, nine hundred fifty-seven million.

Fifteen years ago, July 30, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,071,424,000,000, two trillion, seventy-one billion, four hundred twenty-four million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 30, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$624,547,000,000, six hundred twenty-four billion, five hundred forty-seven million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,108,653,036,425.98, five trillion, one hundred eight billion, six hundred fifty-three million, thirty-six thousand, four hundred twenty-five dollars and ninety-eight cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS F. GIOCONDA

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly great American, Brigadier General Thomas F. Gioconda, USAF. General Gioconda has served this Nation with distinction for 31 years.

A native of Philadelphia, PA, General Gioconda is a graduate of St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, class of 1970. He has earned two masters degrees, one in School Administration from Seton Hall University, and another in Business Administration from the University of Montana. His military career began in 1970 with an assignment to Malstrom AFB, MT, where he served as a missile launch officer. After 4 years as a wing missile operations crew instructor, he served as an AFOTC instructor at his alma mater for two years, followed by another two years at New Jersey Institute of Technology. He then served as a missile operations instructor and section chief at the 4315th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, CA.

General Gioconda has also served as the principal liaison officer to Congress for both General Colin Powell (Ret) and General John Shalikashvili (Ret) during momentous times in our Nation's history—the end of the Cold War, Operations Desert Storm, Provide Promise, Provide Hope, Provide Comfort, Southern Watch, Deny Flight, and Restore Democracy, and Joint Endeavor, as well as countless other military operations and deployments.